



The Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance (OPPTA) provides assistance to Indiana businesses through educational workshops, a variety of specialized programs, telephone assistance, on-site visits and a redeveloped Web site.

Education and Outreach

Representatives of OPPTA conducted more than 50 workshops and presentations across the state in 1999-2000. Among those workshops were special presentations to Indiana manufacturers on the topic of what kinds of facilities must report to the Toxic Release Inventory each year. The traveling workshops provided businesses with individualized instruction on completing required forms and an overview of common reporting errors. Workshops specifically geared to the needs of drycleaners, vehicle maintenance shops, wood finishing and fiberglass industries were also conducted.

The Indiana committee working on the America Recycles Day effort brought OPPTA together with the Indiana Department of Commerce. The team hosted six workshops designed to train

local officials on how to host their own "Buy Recycled" workshops. As a result, local workshops occurred across the state, including one in each of the four largest cities in Indiana. These local workshops helped bring recycled-content product vendors and major purchasers together.

Child Care Guidance and Recognition Program

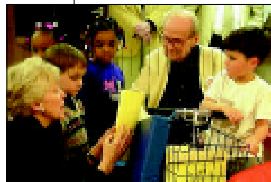
In conjunction with Governor O'Bannon's Building Bright Beginnings campaign and in an effort to educate child care facility staff on the importance of a clean, safe and healthy environment for children, OPPTA unveiled its newest compliance manual. Titled "Guidance for Indiana's Child Care Facilities on Protecting Children from Environmental Threats," the manual provides facility directors and their staff with easy-to-understand explanations and demonstrations of the environmental, health and safety rules with which child care facilities must comply. It also provides guidance on how to go beyond the rules to be en-

vironmental stewards in their communities. The program offers recognition for the facilities that do just that. Twenty-four child care facilities received recognition during the past 12 months.

 www.state.in.us/idem/kids/manual/index.html

Pollution Prevention and Recycling Awards

On September 22, 1999, IDEM Commissioner Lori F. Kaplan recognized eight companies with Pollution Prevention Awards. A review committee, including representatives from government, academia, industry and environmental groups selected award winners. The 1999 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Re-



cycling were presented to 17 organizations on May 9, 2000 during the Indiana Recycling Coalition Conference in Indianapolis. Award winners for both the recycling and pollution prevention awards are listed on IDEM's Web site.

 www.state.in.us/idem/oppta/govawards/index.html

Pollution Prevention Efforts

Four major accomplishments were achieved:

A partnership between IDEM, U.S. EPA and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) was established in December 1999 to make pollution prevention the top priority for dealing with environmental issues at military facilities. The participating DOD facilities have signed a charter agreement outlining goals to promote pollution prevention and to create training programs to increase environmental awareness of military employees and personnel.

The second annual Pollution Prevention Conference and Trade Show took place in September 1999. More than 200 attendees had a chance to see 20 vendors

promoting various pollution prevention technologies and hear about successful pollution prevention projects implemented by Indiana businesses.

The 1999 Toxic Release Inventory/Pollution Prevention Report was developed and distributed throughout Indiana.

OPPTA's Internet-based Toxic Release Inventory searchable database was enhanced to include additional search functions and the most recently available data.

 www.state.in.us/idem/oppta/tri

Recycling Grant Projects

OPPTA offered grants to help start or expand source reduction, recycling, composting and household hazardous waste programs in Indiana. Local communities can receive up to 50 percent funding for start-up equipment and public education expenses. OPPTA field staff are available to assist in the development of grant applications. The Web site listed below provides an overview of the grant program along with guidance, details and forms.

 www.state.in.us/idem/oppta/recycling/recygrnt.html

AmeriCorps

A new group of AmeriCorps members began IDEM tenure in January 2000. AmeriCorps members worked on IDEM's "Protecting Children from Environmental Threats" program and assisted with nearly 200 in-home lead risk assessments. Several Outdoor 2000 projects occurred, including assisting local schools and nonprofit organizations with work on their outdoor nature labs and classrooms. Members also made several presentations to schools during the Earth Day observances and participated in the Earth Day celebration at the White River.

